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- Thousands entered Metro's global contest
- We're sending Boston student Justin Dowd, 22, on a once-in-a-lifetime trip into outer space

{pages 08-09}

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A slow, painful death

After years of severe beatings, 6-year-old Khalil Wimes was just 29 pounds and covered in bruises when he was pronounced dead on March 19 Parents charged with his murder

The foster family of 6-year-old Khalil Wimes listened to gruesome testimony yesterday about the prolonged physical abuse he suffered at the hands of his biological parents who are charged with murder.

Wimes was pronounced dead March 19 at Children's Hospital of Pennsylvania. Tina Cuffie, 44, and Latiff Hadi, also known as Floyd Wimes, 48, are accused of starving the young child and repeatedly abusing him.

Khalil was significantly malnourished and weighed just 29 pounds when he died and his body was covered in bruises, an assistant medical examiner testified at yesterday's preliminary hearing.

The case has brought back memories of Danieal Kelly, the disabled girl who was only 46 pounds when she died in 2006 at age 14. While there was no open case on Khalil Wimes, a Department of Human Services social worker did visit the home regularly to check on his siblings, officials have said. That social worker has been placed on administrative duty pending an internal investigation.

In Khalil's case, he was placed back in the hands of his biological parents in 2009 after spending the first three years with a foster family who are distant relatives of his biological parents.

Assistant Medical Examiner Dr. Aaron Rosen testified that Khalil had bruises literally on each segment of his body and hemorrhaging just below the surface of his head which was caused by recent blunt force trauma.

"It's clear that this was a child who had been severely beaten over a long period of time," Rosen said.

Homicide Detective Howard Peterman also took the stand and read the statement Cuffie gave homicide detectives following Khalil's death. Cuffie allegedly said that the morning of his death she smacked the boy in the back of his head, causing him to fall on his face on the bathroom floor. She allegedly said Khalil appeared dazed and disoriented after the fall and slept for most of the day until he was taken to the hospital.

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

▶ In happier times, Khalil Wimes smiles in a photo provided by his former foster family. His parents, above right, are charged with his murder.

SOLOMON D. LEACH
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Discipline?

Cuffie's defense attorney Michael Farrell argued the abuse was not murder.

"We do not acknowledge that the fatal blows were administered by her or anything other than what she admitted to, and that is disciplining the child with a belt."

'She wished she never had him'

PHILADELPHIA. According to Floyd Wimes' statement to homicide detectives, he and Cuffie waited to take Khalil to the hospital because they feared DHS involvement.

"Tina was afraid of DHS from the case before. She was afraid that if they saw him ... it would be a problem," Wimes' allegedly said.

He also told detectives that Khalil was malnourished because he vomited in his bed at night for about two months — something he saw as an act of rebellion. As punishment, Cuffie would hit him with a belt or smack him and sometimes take his meals, he said.

"I never thought she would take this out on my son. She said she wished she never had him."

According to Cuffie's statement, Khalil had not been out of the house in a month. METRO/SDL

Quoted

"The judges and DHS need to answer for the decisions that they made that put [him] in their hands in the first place."

LAREINE NIXON, KHALIL'S FOSTER GRANDMOTHER

In the news

Officer shoots charging dog

A police officer shot and killed a dog yesterday after it charged at him, authorities said. An off-duty officer was walking his own dog on the 4000 block of McKean Street around 10 a.m. when two loose pit bulls attacked the animal. The two dogs then lunged at a police officer who responded to the scene, causing him to shoot at them, killing one and frightening the other away. METRO/AW

In the news

Abandoned bikes to be removed

The Streets Department will be conducting an abandoned bicycle sweep beginning this summer. The city 311 center will collect information from callers about the offending bicycles, described as those with missing or damaged parts that are in unusable condition and have been locked in the same place for at least a month. METRO/AW

Mayfair tire slasher charged

MAYFAIR. A man who was part of the effort to catch a serial tire slasher in Mayfair was charged as the culprit, police said.

David Toledo, of the 4000 block of Aldine Street, was arrested yesterday afternoon. He is facing charges of criminal mischief, theft, and false reporting after allegedly committing nearly 50 slashings in the neighborhood since November.

A rash of incidents led officials to offer a $7,500 reward for information leading to an arrest last month.

Police said it is not the first time Toledo had been involved in vandalism.

"I will say that he does have a past history of these types of events happening in his life," Capt. John McGinnis said. METRO/SDL

▶ Toledo faces charges on almost 50 tire slashings.

Drunk drivers on the Ocean City Boardwalk

OCEAN CITY, N.J. Two Pennsylvania residents were arrested after driving their car onto the Ocean City Boardwalk and crashing through a railing in an attempt to find a lost cell phone, the Press of Atlantic City reported yesterday.

Christian Winzcuk, 21, of Philadelphia and Hyeyeon Ju, 46, of Jenkintown, were reportedly walking on the beach at night when they lost a cell phone. Winzcuk allegedly drove their car onto the Boardwalk in the hopes that he could use its headlights to find the phone.

Instead, he lost control of the vehicle, crashed through a railing and flipped onto the beach. Both suffered minor injuries. METRO/AW

▶ Ocean City

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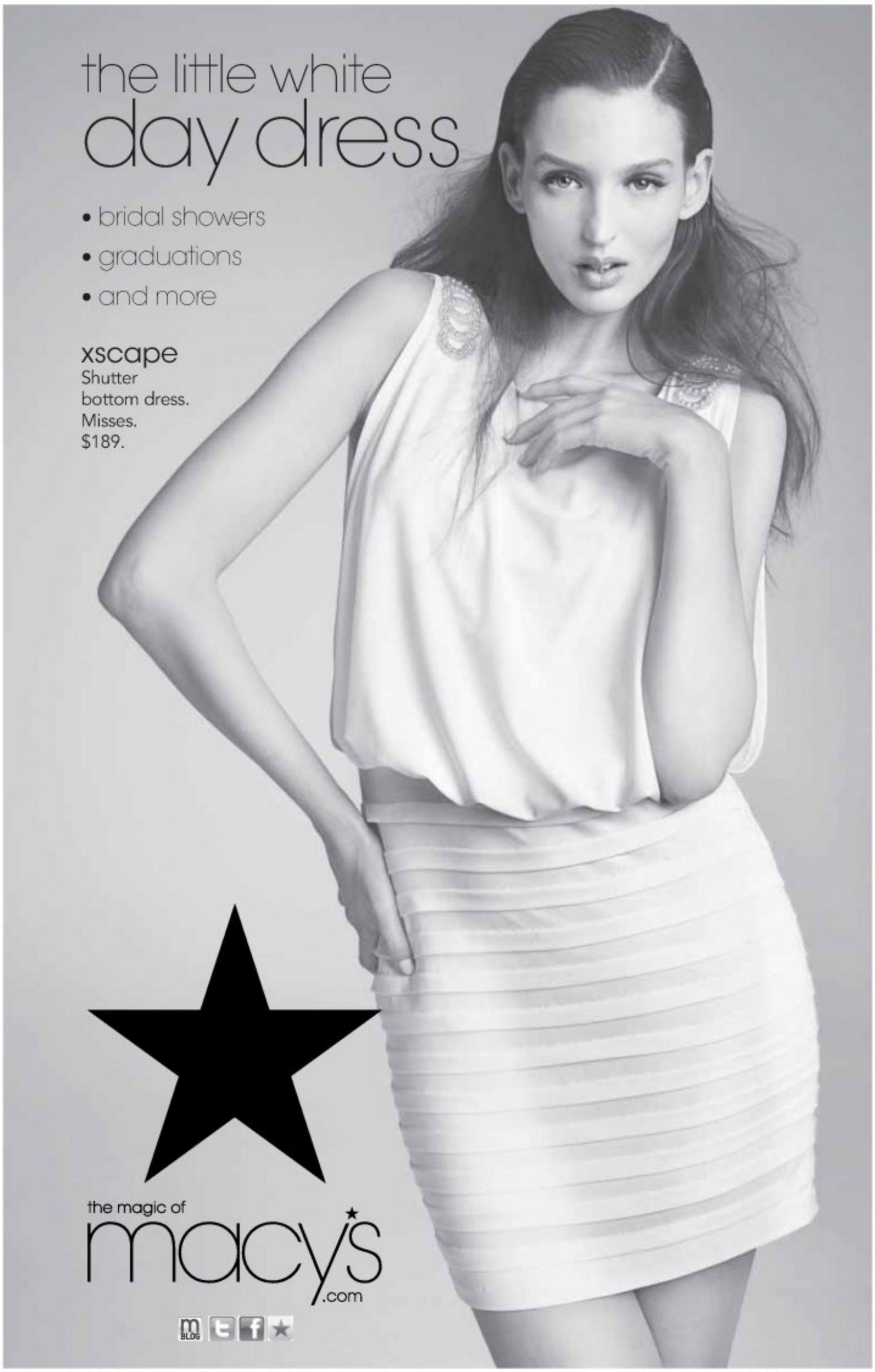

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Parking ticket appeals don't appeal to all

Councilmembers want tickets contested online, over phone ◗ Not so fast, says Nutter administration

Representatives from Mayor Michael Nutter's administration tried in vain yesterday to get a City Council committee to amend or table a bill allowing Philadelphians to contest parking tickets online or over the phone in a discussion that became somewhat of a showdown.

On one side were Councilmembers eager to please constituents that regularly call with horror stories describing wrongly issued citations, dismal customer service and hours-long waits at Traffic Court. On the other was a cash-strapped city with no wiggle room to hire more staff to review appeals requests.

"We're overwhelmed as it is. Anything we would do that would increase the volume of hearings, we would have to add staff," director of the Bureau of Administrative Adjudication Jeremiah Connors said.

16K
Parking tickets reviewed for possible appeal each month.

But bill sponsor Councilman Bill Green remained unconvinced. "There will be an initial uptick [in appeals] and then when people realize they're just as likely to get a 'no' through this method, it will go down," he said. Green said he will attempt to compromise and that the bill could be up for a vote in June.

ALEX WIGGLESWORTH
awigglesworth@metro.us

▶ 1,138,134 parking tickets were issued in Philadelphia this fiscal year through March 31.

Twitter testimony

Though no final decision on the parking adjudication issue was made yesterday, City Council still broke new ground — for the first time in history, citizens were allowed to tweet their testimony.

"Tweet at me before 2pm about why being able to appeal your parking tickets online (instead of in person) would be helpful #phlpark," Green tweeted yesterday via @Green4Philly. He then compiled the pertinent responses into a Storify account and notified each user included that their tweets would be submitted to Council's official record.

News in brief

▶ Leffew

Man, 70, charged with smuggling drugs to girlfriend

CHESTER COUNTY. Police arrested an elderly man for allegedly smuggling narcotics hidden beneath postage stamps to his 25-year-old girlfriend, an inmate at Chester County Prison.

Dennis Leffew, 70, of Elkton, Md., is charged with conspiracy and delivering contraband.

A detective was assigned to the investigation after correctional officers at the jail found four envelopes sent by Leffew between February and April. Each had an oversized postage stamp and either a return address label or a sticker reading "Proud Supporter Paralyzed Veterans of America."

Underneath each label, officers found an unknown orange strip, determined by medical personnel to be the controlled substance Suboxone. Authorities arrested Leffew in the prison parking lot on April 11 as he arrived to visit Williams.

Williams was charged Monday with conspiracy and possessing contraband. He is being held at the same prison as his girlfriend in lieu of $10,000 bail. METRO/AW

One dead in South Philly hammer, knife fight

SOUTH PHILADELPHIA. One man was killed and a second was seriously injured in a hammer and knife fight early yesterday morning. Officers responded to the 400 block of McKean Street for reports of a stabbing victim, who was pronounced dead on the scene shortly before 3 a.m.

Investigators reportedly followed a blood trail to a home on the 400 block of Dudley Street, where they found a second victim. He was hospitalized and is currently in stable condition.

Authorities did not release any identities and no arrests have yet been made. METRO/AW

Art. City Hall

▶ Megan Bridge, co-directer of performance art company <fidget>, had an unusual stage yesterday evening.

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

City Hall plays host to artists

Yesterday, City Hall Presents hosted an interactive dance performance by Kensington-based company <fidget>. The series — which is free and open to the public every Wednesday evening — seeks to welcome a broad range of artists into the mayor's Reception Room. METRO

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Bishop compares Obama to Hitler

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Obama

More than a hundred University of Notre Dame professors have demanded that Illinois Bishop Daniel Jenky renounce comments he made criticizing President Barack Obama's stance on religious liberty that compared him to dictators Adolf Hitler and Joseph Stalin.

"Jenky's comments demonstrate ignorance of history, insensitivity to victims of genocide and absence of judgment," said the letter addressed this week to the leadership of the renowned Catholic university in Indiana and signed by 131 professors from various fields.

The letter urged the school to distance itself from Jenky's "incendiary statement," and called for Jenky, 65, a Notre Dame graduate who has led a Catholic diocese in Peoria, Ill., since 2002, to "renounce loudly and publicly this destructive analogy" — or resign from the university's Board of Fellows and board of trustees.

Jenky, along with other U.S. Catholic bishops and social conservatives, condemned the Obama administration's requirement that church-affiliated institutions provide insurance that covers contraception.

But his April 14 homily singled out Obama and the Democratic majority in the U.S. Senate, saying, "The Church will survive ... the calculated disdain of the President of the United States ... and of the current (Democratic) majority of the federal Senate." **REUTERS**

"Jenky's comments demonstrate ignorance of history, insensitivity to victims of genocide and absence of judgment."

LETTER ADDRESSED TO THE LEADERSHIP OF NOTRE DAME, SIGNED BY 131 PROFESSORS

GETTY IMAGES

▶ General Dempsey also ordered an inquiry into how the material, which has been described as "objectionable" and "inflammatory," got into the course at Norfolk.

US to review 'war with Islam' course

The top military officer ordered a review of training material after a course for officers was found to espouse the view that the United States is at war with Islam, the Pentagon said yesterday.

General Martin Dempsey, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, sent a letter on Tuesday to leaders of the Army and other services, along with regional commanders and officials heading the National Guard, ordering a review of relevant training and education material across the military. **REUTERS**

Court backs Arizona on immigration

WASHINGTON. Conservative justices who hold a majority on the U.S. Supreme Court appeared to endorse Arizona's immigration crackdown yesterday, rejecting the Obama administration stance that the federal government has sole power over those who illegally enter the United States.

During 80 minutes of oral arguments, the justices suggested by their questions and comments that states have significant latitude to adopt laws that discourage illegal immigrants from moving to and staying in the country.

Critics have said the Arizona law could lead to ethnic and racial profiling. **REUTERS**

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‘I WILL NEVER FORGET TODAY’

WINNER

Physics student from Boston beats hundreds for ticket to outer space
Justin Dowd to undergo training for space flight scheduled for 2014

Justin Dowd from Worcester, Mass., has won the Race for Space, the global competition to select one Metro reader to travel into space.

Dowd, 22, beat thousands of candidates from across the globe to win a the coveted once-in-a-lifetime ticket on board XCOR Lynx, the first generation rocket-powered spaceplane currently being built by leading spaceflight company SXC.

Dowd has both the mental and physical smarts needed to be a perfect astronaut. Dowd, a physics and maths undergraduate at Boston’s Northeastern University, wowed the judging panel with his stunning chalkboard stop motion video on Einstein’s theory of relativity. Meanwhile, Dowd has been training for a grueling 12-mile endurance obstacle course race.

“My motivation for him is that he really provides an amazing package in the combined qualities of scientific background, artistic qualities, dedication and the gift to tell a fascinating story,” Harry Van Hulten, test pilot with SXC and global jury member that selected Dowd.

“He is absolutely unique. He taught me things in his video that I didn’t understand as well as I do now. He really blew me away with that. I can’t think of any better ambassador to tell the story about this space trip than him.”

Dowd will receive astronaut training ahead of the trip scheduled for 2014. The ‘civilian astronaut’ will be able to chronicle his preparations and space flight itself in a series of reports published in Metro across the globe.

In reacting to the news, Dowd told Metro, “I’m the luckiest guy in the world and for about 20 minutes, I’ll be the luckiest guy in outer space!”

Dowd added that it’s “an absolute honor” to be the part of the world’s first space mission to be launched by a newspaper. “To say this is a once-in-a-lifetime event is an understatement. This is the first time ever this sort of mission is happening and I am elated to be a part of history.”

METRO

▶ Justin Dowd of Worcester, Mass., won Metro’s contest to take a trip to space.

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PHOTOS: COURTNEY SACCO/METRO

Nothing compares

What inner qualities do you think will help you be a great astronaut for the mission?
I was always interested in physics — to expand my knowledge of the world — but I am big into sports and exercise. I think these two things will help me be a good astronaut.

What are you looking forward to most about the mission?
Those few precious moments of weightlessness during the flight, watching the curvature of Earth, and experiencing the force of going Mach 3.

How does your mom feel about you going to outer space?
(laughs) Well, she is both happy and nervous about my trip!

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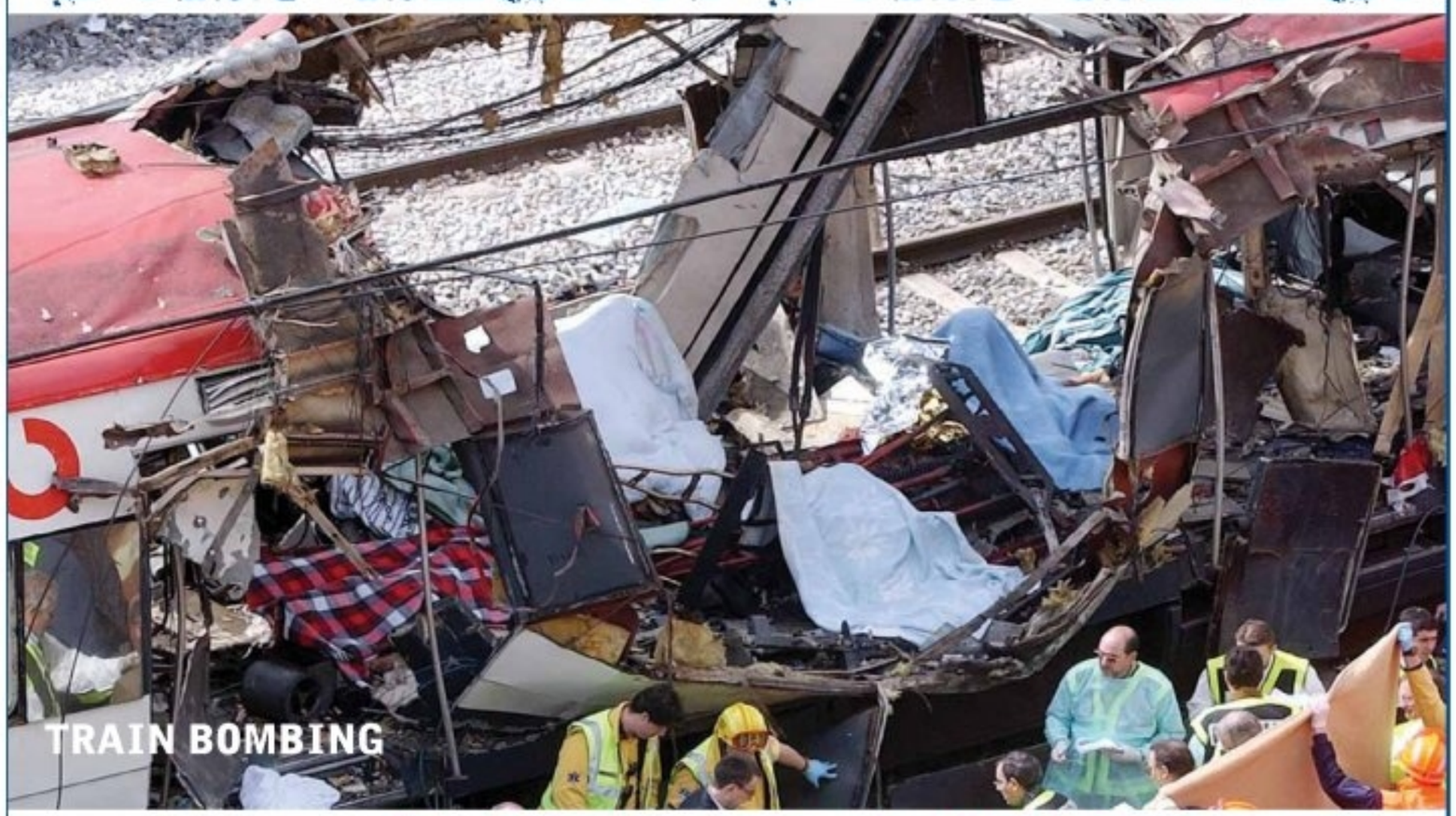

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A moment of silence, please, for the Newt Gingrich campaign for presidency. Sure, his shoot-for-the-moon candidacy has been on the ropes since at least Feb. 1 when his debate momentum and surprise South Carolina victory were crushed in Florida beneath a mountain of Romney super PAC attack ads. But there was at least a short-lived moment when some — certainly the candidate himself — actually believed he could last all the way to the Republican National Convention in August. Now that dream is dead: Gingrich announced yesterday that he was "reassessing" after his five-state loss on Tuesday. Campaign aides said he'd officially be out next week.

While there is certainly plenty to mock about the big man with a child's heart, Gingrich was in some ways a laudable candidate. He was, to be clear, generally despicable. But also, when compared to the rest of the Republican field and that party in general, Gingrich could be occasionally refreshing as well.

In the context of his 2012 presidential run, the Gingrich paradox can be encapsulated in an event from May of last year, when he came out strongly against the Paul Ryan budget proposal, describing it as "right-wing social engineering." Party loyalty over the regressive Ryan budget — derided universally among Democrats, touted equally by Republicans — is just one example of the partisan nature of D.C. politics. Yet Gingrich called this faux solution a "radical change." Then his party flipped out, and he was forced to walk his comments back. But he did make them, and that counts for something.

Gingrich's most enduring contribution to the campaign season, however, was his intense and obvious love of science. He took a lot of heat for it from his rival candidates, but he never dropped his insistence that America should strive to put another man on the moon. (A colony, actually.) Again, what set him apart was his willingness to be set apart. What does Romney think about manned space flight? Oh, we don't know, how's it polling? Gingrich seems to truly believe in his heart in the promise of technology and big ideas. In an environment where kowtowing to the party line dominates, Gingrich went his own way. In the end, it cost him. Still, we consider it commendable.

Of course, Gingrich also apparently thinks that poor kids should be janitors in their own schools and was the king of the dog-whistle — using coded language like calling Obama the "food-stamp president" to appeal to racists — so maybe we're taking this praise a bit too far. (And we don't even have the space or inclination to get into all of his crazy hypocritical personal issues, which everyone already knows so well!) But what's the harm? He's out and Romney's the guy. We've got bigger problems to worry about.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

WIN MCNAMEE/GETTY IMAGES

▶ It's back to the zoo with you, Gingrich.

"The idea that corporate America wants to go off to the moon and build a colony there, it may be a big idea, but it's not a good idea." MITT ROMNEY

"If I had been clever, I would have said to Romney, 'You would have fired Christopher Columbus and John F. Kennedy because they were proposing daring and large things.'" NEWT GINGRICH, AS PER JEFFREY GOLDBERG

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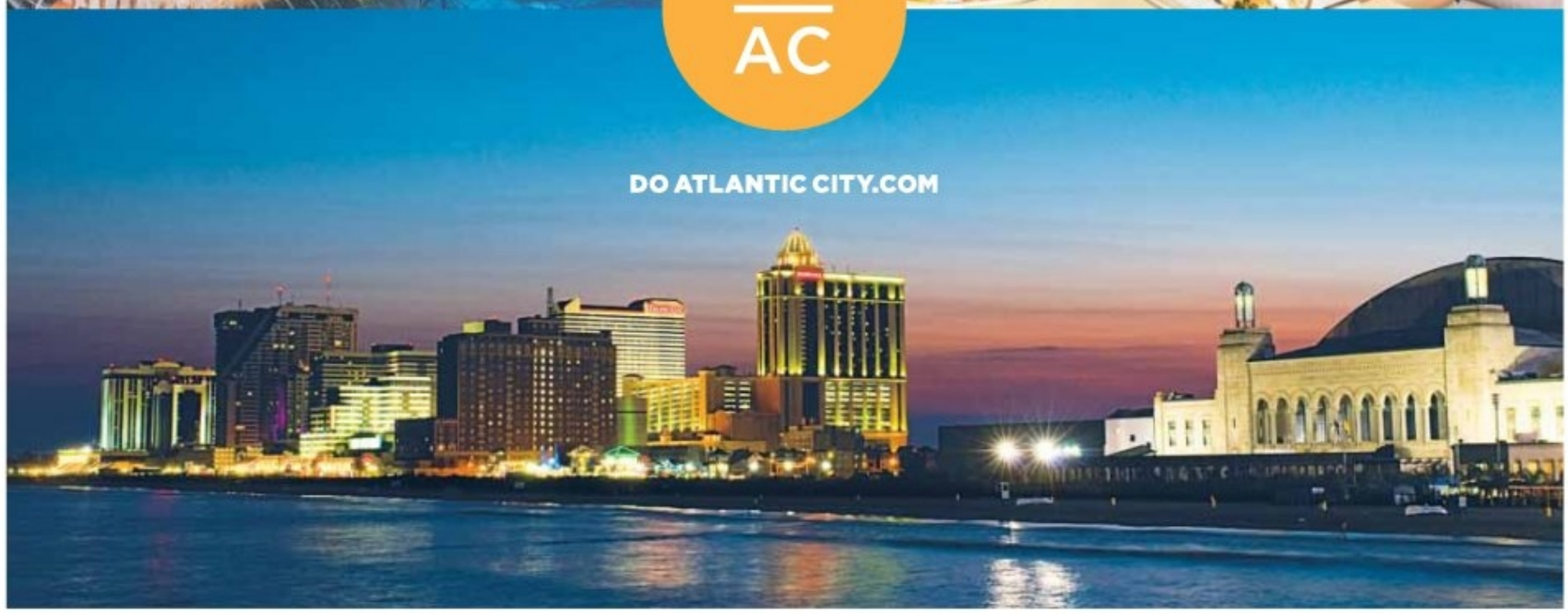

myentertainment

THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Kathy Griffin is worried for her safety, Ryan Seacrest is looking to travel more, Cher is trying to understand the nuances of Twitter and Patton Oswalt can see the future.

@kathygriffin
I agreed 2 b on @ryanseacrest tomorrow AM 2 promote #KATHY. If I don't return, check his basement & tell my Mom I love her

@RyanSeacrest
Still haven't hit enough frequent flyer miles for a wings pin...

@cher
Whats Fail Whale ?

@pattonoswalt
In 2081, China & India will buy the United States on Craiglist.

Cher

Chris Brown is breeding, selling pit bull puppies

Chris Brown and his family are selling pit bull puppies online — for $1,000 a pop.

The media was tipped off to the pop star's new business venture by his mother, who tweeted a link to the dog-selling site, along with a picture of Brown cuddling one of the puppies. A rep for the singer confirmed to The Associated Press on Tuesday that Brown and his family are indeed selling the 2-month-old pit bulls online. The publicist's spin on the high price tag is that Brown, whom she defines as "an animal lover," "wants to make sure the dogs go to a good home."

Look, dog breeding is one thing. But breeding pit bulls? That's especially irresponsible. According to recent stats from the Humane Society, 70 percent of dogs housed and euthanized in urban animal shelter systems are pit bulls. An even more depressing statistic from the Los Angeles Humane Society says that around 200 pit bulls in L.A. alone are euthanized every day due to overbreeding and lack of adoption opportunities. The point being: Shelters are overrun with the breed, and thousands upon thousands are killed every year because no one will adopt them. And yet, Brown is selling each puppy for $1,000? Gross.

I'm channeling my inner **Bob Barker** when I say I'm pretty sure the way for Brown to show that he's a true "animal lover" is to make sure his pets are spayed and neutered — and not to breed and then sell them on a website. Especially when, come on — does he really need the money?

▶ This guy again.

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

▶ Hubba hubba: The couple back in 2004.

Ashton and Mila: It's on!

Ashton Kutcher and **Mila Kunis** may have denied last week's reports that they've become more than just friends, but their recent activities aren't doing much to help that assertion. The two reportedly shared a weekend getaway up the California coast, according to People magazine. Witnesses spotted Kutcher and Kunis headed to Carpinteria, Calif., where they grabbed lunch and some fresh fruit Friday — and didn't surface again until Sunday morning. A source close to Kutcher says something like this has been in the cards since their "That 70s Show" days. "He was so in love with her for a while when they worked together," says the source. "He thought she was a goddess, was always talking about how beautiful she is. But she was with **Macaulay [Culkin]** for a lot of that time and also just generally gave off a not interested vibe."

Talking points

Beyonce named People's Most Beautiful

Beyonce's beauty secret? Having a baby. "I feel more beautiful than I've ever felt because I've given birth," the singer tells People magazine, which named her the 2012 World's Most Beautiful Woman. "I have never felt so connected, never felt like I had such a purpose on this earth." Beyonce and husband **Jay-Z** welcomed daughter **Blue Ivy Carter** three months ago. "The best thing about having a daughter is having a true legacy," Beyonce adds. "The word 'love' means something completely different now."

Lawrence and wife to divorce

Martin Lawrence and his wife, **Shamicka**, are calling it quits after 17 years together, according to E! News. The "Big Momma's House" star says in a statement that they made a "joint decision to go our separate ways." Martin and Shamicka were an item for 15 years before finally tying the knot in 2010. "Out of love and respect for one another we will continue to remain friends and raise our two beautiful daughters together," Martin says.

Ozzy is a grandfather

Jack Osbourne and his fiancee, **Lisa Stelly**, are the proud parents of a newborn baby girl, welcoming daughter **Pearl** on Tuesday, his rep confirms to People magazine. It's the first grandchild for Ozzy and Sharon Osbourne. Sharon previously announced her intentions of spoiling the new addition. "I'm going to be the grandmother from hell because I am going to spoil this baby so bad," she told People earlier this year. "My son and Lisa are going to be like, 'Get her out of here!'"

Efron loved love scenes with Kidman

Zac Efron has had his share of on-screen girlfriends, but there's one that stands above the rest: **Nicole Kidman**, whom Efron connects with in "The Paperboy," their upcoming film. "It was everything you dreamed of," Efron tells Australia's Daybreak. "She was such a lovely person. I pinched myself every day, especially after doing love scenes with Nicole Kidman. Nicole is so gorgeous."

Efron

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Hillary Rodham Clinton lives it up at the TIME 100 Gala

The Secretary of State, along with **Jeremy Lin**, **Tim Tebow** and 97 other artists, politicians and business leaders, was chosen for TIME magazine's 2012 100 Most Influential People in the World list. Here she is, having a grand old time on Tuesday night at the Lincoln Center in New York City. All photos by Larry Busacca/Getty Images for TIME

▶ ... with Barbara Walters

▶ ... with Matt Lauer and Time managing editor Rick Stengel

▶ ... with basketball phenom Jeremy Lin

▶ ... with Tyra Banks

▶ ... with actress Tilda Swinton

▶ ... with producer Harvey Weinstein

▶ ... with comedians Louis C.K. and Amy Poehler.

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The jazz festival that

With few venues left to support the scene, a new Center City summit hopes to add a little energy and recruit a new audience

COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

▶ George Burton performs Saturday at 4:30 p.m. at Chris' Jazz Cafe.

With the recent disbanding of Philly's well-loved West Oak Lane Jazz Festival, a new showcase has emerged to fill the silence.

This weekend's inaugural Center City Jazz Festival will take place at four venues nestled within a three-block radius in the heart of the city.

If you go

Saturday, 1-8 p.m.
Time Restaurant, Fergie's Pub, MilkBoy Philadelphia and Chris' Jazz Cafe
$25 (general admission all-access pass)
www.ccjazzfest.com

As envisioned by founder and trombonist Ernest Stuart, the daylong, easily accessible festival will feature more than 50 jazz musicians performing in 17 bands over the course of seven hours.

"Philly has one of the most storied jazz scenes in the country — but in the last few years, it's really declined in accessibility and quality," says Stuart. "On top of that, there's been some passing of a lot of older influential jazz musicians here. Add that all together in a short period of time."

Currently, there is only one club, Chris' Jazz Cafe, dedicated solely to jazz in the nation's fifth largest city. "Now that's a problem," says Stuart. "My idea for the festival was born from that situation."

Pianist George Burton, one of this weekend's performers, attributes his musical education to the city. "I grew up 100 percent a product of Philadelphia in every way, shape and form," says Burton.

As the son of music teachers, a graduate of the city's High School for Creative and Performing Arts and an alumna, like Stuart, of Temple's Jazz Studies program, Burton believes in the festival's potential to renew the scene and provide valuable exposure. "People are still trying to find somewhere to play," says Burton. "I hope this brings more audiences back not only to jazz, but live music in general."

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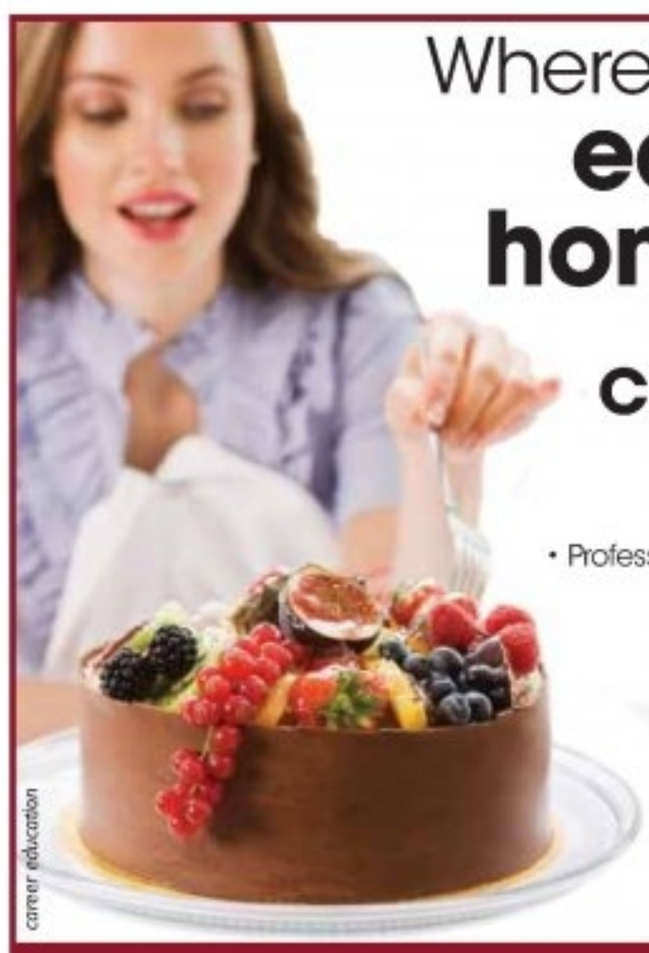

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Philly needed

COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

▶ Ernest Stuart performs Saturday at 2:45 p.m. at MilkBoy.

A new energy

Mike Boone is one of the city's most seasoned jazz musicians. For him, the festival is the perfect time to recruit some new members to the scene.

"Philadelphia isn't just cheesesteaks, sports and hoagies — we hope to bring awareness that there's also jazz here in this town," he says. "Listen to it! It's a viable thing, and it's happening right now. The jazz scene has always been kind of self-contained without a large influx of new listeners. So if anything, I hope that the festival at least grabs people's attention to increase the self-esteem of the musical community– and the whole community of arts. You gotta start somewhere."

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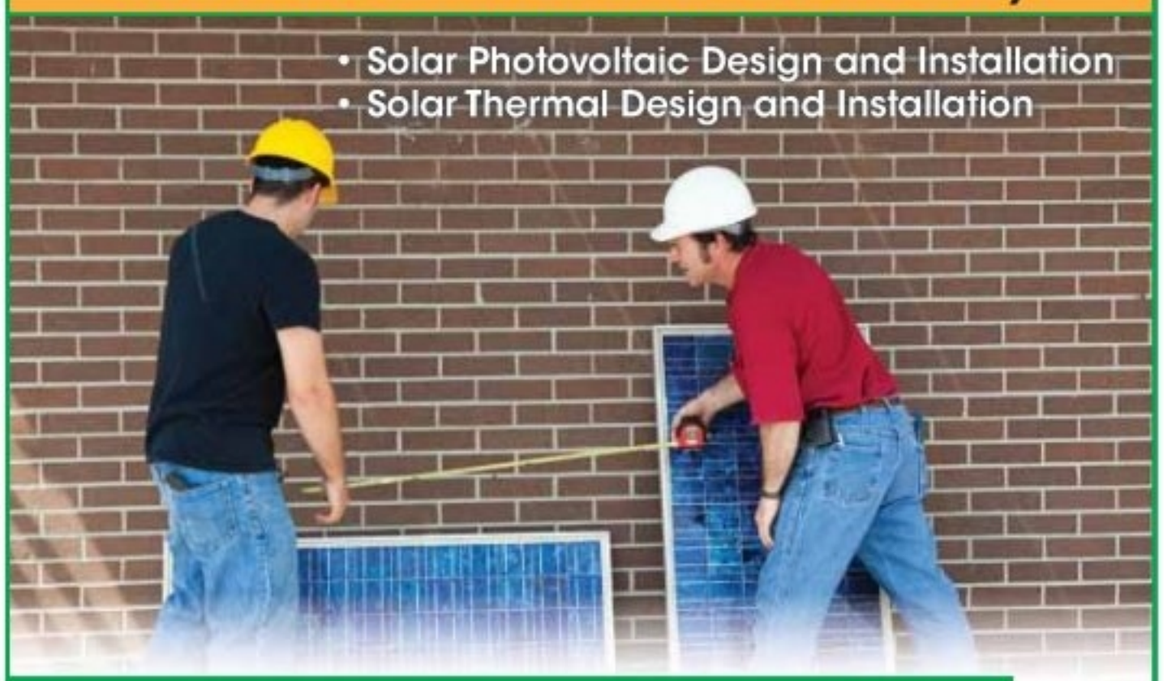

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Top 5 films

2 'Safe' Never one to appear in a film and not handle some kind of firearm, Jason Statham stars as an ex-cage fighter attempting to save a young girl from the Russian mob.

3 'The Raven' John Cusack is Edgar Allen Poe on the trail of a serial killer who designs his murders after Poe's stories.

Must-see

1 'The Five-Year Engagement' Jason Segel and Emily Blunt star in this Judd Apatow-produced comedy as a happily engaged couple who dodge one obstacle after another to get to their wedding day.

4 'The Pirates! Band of Misfits' The studio responsible for "Chicken Run" delivers a pirating adventure voiced by Hugh Grant and Salma Hayek.

5 'Think Like a Man' Steve Harvey's best-selling book, "Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man," gets a screen adaptation.

GLEN WILSON

▶ Lucky in love and unlucky in matrimony, the couple (Emily Blunt and Jason Segel) in "The Five-Year Engagement" can't get themselves to the chapel on time.

TV watch list

ALI GOLDSTEIN/NBC

▶ Tina Fey stars as Liz Lemon — live! — on "30 Rock."

'30 Rock'

COMEDY. Live, from New York, it's "30 Rock"! The sitcom from "Saturday Night Live" vet Tina Fey takes a cue from her late-night days and once again broadcasts live (the comedy also went live in 2010 during Season 5). Ironically, tonight's plot finds Kabletown ordering "The Girlie Show" to start pre-taping episodes. **8:30 p.m., NBC**

'Don't Be Tardy for the Wedding'

REALITY. The lead-up to the wedding of Real Housewife Kim Zolciak and football player Kroy Biermann is chronicled in this new special, which could surely double as an episode of "Bridezillas." **Series premiere, 9 p.m., Bravo**

'The Conversation with Amanda De Cadenet'

TALK. British television personality Amanda De Cadenet invites her famous friends — in the premiere episode, Jane Fonda, Gwyneth Paltrow, Sarah Silverman and Zoe Saldana — for frank discussion on issues affecting women that go way beyond "who are you wearing." **Series premiere, 11 p.m., Lifetime** AMBER RAY

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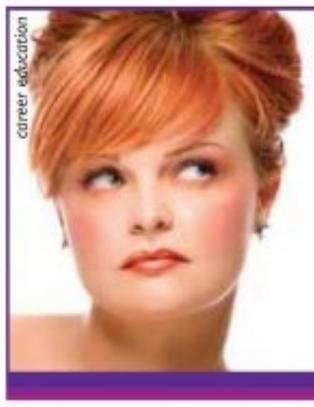

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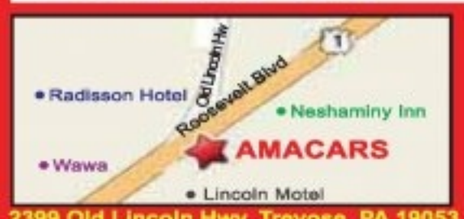

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Shrink Wrap

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How to handle a bossy partner

Exercise more. Lower your voice. Spend more time with me. Everybody wants to tell you what to do — especially the person you are with. We have even read about Brad Pitt's concern that Angelina Jolie isn't eating enough. Does he get on her case at home? In a restaurant, does he turn into a bossy spouse? If your spouse or partner does, how can you stop the demands from making you feel like you are being controlled?

There are lots of things we are comfortable doing that irritate our significant other, who has no qualms about voicing his or her frustrations. When your partner tells you what to do, the knee-jerk reaction is to get defensive. Faced with a mandate, you might either fight back or just shut down, keeping your anger on a low flame. But it doesn't have to be that way.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Who's telling who what to do in this coupling?

The next time your partner gives you an order — slow down when you drive, stop drinking soda, don't smoke, be more affectionate — instead of feeling immediately angry and walking away, initiate a conversation. Ask why your loved one is concerned. What is your partner most worried about? Once he or she can share concerns about your driving speed (it's for your safety), smoking habit (it's for your health) or how much time you can give to the relationship (your partner wants to feel special), then you will be able to hear the love instead of the contempt that comes across in the bossy demands. With that, you might feel motivated to work together and even deal with some of the behaviors that may be causing you potential harm. If you are aware of the issues, explain that you understand and are already working on them.

— Relationship expert **Dr. Jane Greer** *is the creator of* ***"Shrink Wrap"*** *– national commentary on what we can learn from celebrity relationships – and host of* ***"Let's Talk Sex"*** *at* ***Healthylife.net.*** *Her book,* ***"What About Me? Stop Selfishness From Ruining Your Relationship,"*** *is available nationwide.*

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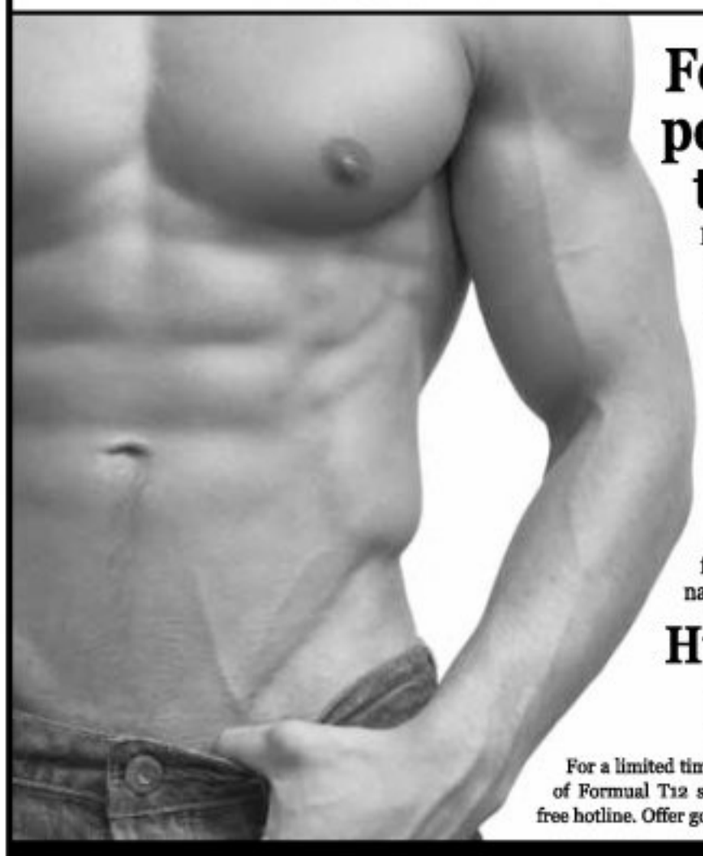

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Letters

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Monetary policy: The lowdown

RE: "WHAT IS ROMNEY PROPOSING FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS?": Sehrish Sultan's letter asks what Romney is going to give the middle class. While Obama will give them health insurance by borrowing from China, devaluing the dollar and forcing young adults to overpay for coverage, Romney will put our economy back on track and give them jobs!
JIM FLETCHER, VIA E-MAIL

Yes, Mr. Connell, I was describing monetary policy — which, last I checked, still falls under the realm of economic policy. What happens when you increase the supply of a good? The price — or value — per unit goes down. Fiat paper money is no different. Increase the supply of Federal Reserve Notes and the value per dollar will go down. The traditional definition of inflation is an increase in the supply of money. Price inflation is a consequence of monetary inflation: If you have more money chasing the same amount of goods, then the price of goods will go up while the value of your money has gone down.
KELLY DONNOE, VIA E-MAIL

Connell and Donnoe are both a little confused about economics. It's a GOP scare tactic to say that the Fed is printing money, which suggests a permanent increase. Most economists agree that when the main danger is deflation, the Fed should increase liquidity (money supply) by buying bonds from financial institutions. That increases their cash and thus their reserves. That allows more lending. When the main danger becomes inflation, the Fed can suck that money back out of the economy by selling bonds. Also, selling more bonds helps decrease their value, which increases the interest rates needed to sell bonds. The increase in interest rates helps slow inflation. Recently, most inflation has been due to China's demand for commodities and Iran's war games. That price increase slows the rest of the economy. **HARRY THORN, PHILADELPHIA**

Newt Gingrich may have job opening

Just found out Newt is out. Will he join the Secret Service? I heard there's openings in that department.
JIM ALVIN, VIA E-MAIL

GSA scandal is bad; wars much costlier

Every news channel is screaming about the $800,000 wasted by a government agency that is supposed to keep an eye on government waste. It's too bad they didn't scream about over 4,000 soldiers who lost their lives or the billions of dollars wasted by the Bush administration on a war based on lies about WMDs. But I guess reporting that Lindsey Lohan was drunk again took priority.
ROBERT LA ROSA, VIA E-MAIL

Here's a good idea: Let's work together?

Our president, Obama, stepped into office with such problems that could have easily could have continued to worsen. Obama has initiated a turnaround, although slow. If Republicans and Democrats would have worked together more (can that ever happen?!) then our turnaround would be faster.
DOMINIC LAMPASI, VIA E-MAIL

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

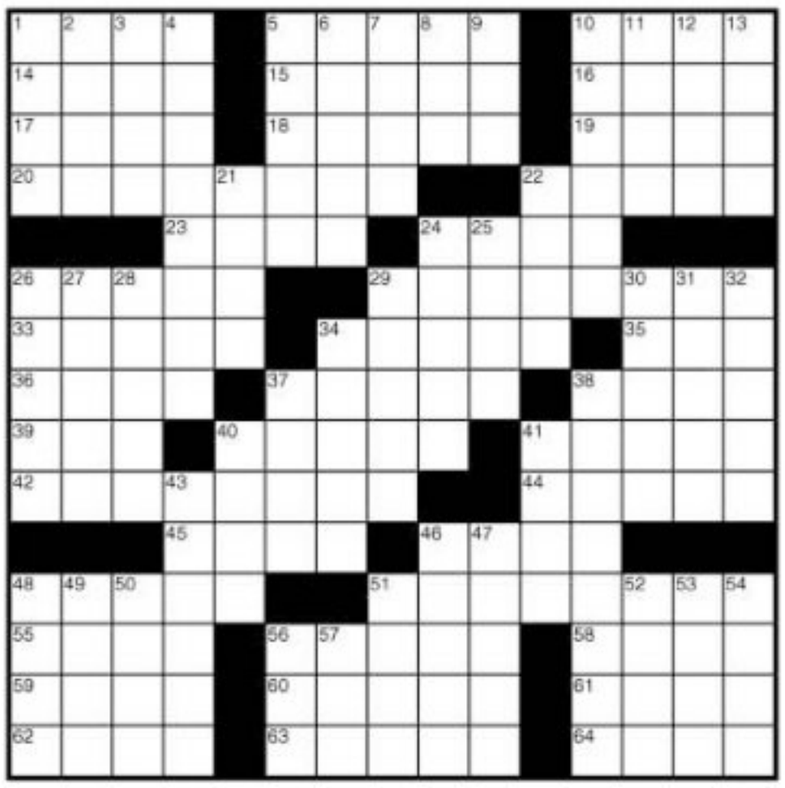
Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Your inability to evaluate information that is essential to your plans could be due to not having all the necessary info at your disposal. Don't try to make a call without all the facts.
♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Disappointment is likely if you build your expectations upon questionable premises. It's good to be optimistic, but only if you're also in touch with reality.
♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** If you want others to accept you and treat you nicely, you must first reach out to them. Keep being warm and friendly, even when you get the cold shoulder. They'll come around.
♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** The only person you have to genuinely please is you. If you think you've done your best to be warm and giving, you don't need any additional applause.
♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Be careful not to commit any selfish acts or act indifferently to someone who is nice to you. If you do so, it will be quite a while before you can look at yourself in the mirror again.
♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Be observant, because someone you recently met might not be everything that he or she pretends to be. When this person has to perform under pressure, this will become apparent to you.
♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Should a friend come to you for advice, instead of telling your pal what you think she or he wants to hear, tell the truth. Be kind about it, and you'll do a world of good.
♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Your ability to recognize a real bargain might not be operating very well. If something is expensive, sleep on it for a while before committing a sizable chunk of change.
♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Something might arise that could force you to choose between feathering your own nest or helping out a friend, partner or loved one. You can't have your cake and eat it too.
♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Be extremely selective of your choice of companions, because what they do will reflect on you for either good or ill. Don't gain a bad reputation based on your friends.
♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** You could find yourself involved in a social event where everybody but you knows one another, leaving you feeling like an outsider. If you can, take a friend along.
♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Your personal ambitions and your abilities might not complement one another. It's OK to want certain things, but only if you have the ability to get what you desire. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**

Across
1 Flatter oneself
5 Neck annoyance
10 Stoic founder
14 Cowardly Lion portrayer
15 Vicious elephant
16 Plenty, old-style
17 Greek mountain
18 It divides to multiply (var.)
19 Hop a train
20 Rougher, as water
22 Augured
23 Kelly's possum
24 Limp-watch painter
26 Slight
29 Checking and savings
33 Desert transport
34 Daring deeds
35 Fiber-rich grain
36 Kind of hog
37 Rock or country
38 Big Dipper bear
39 "__ Gratia Artis"
40 Pert
41 Venezuela falls
42 Lead astray
44 Moonshine maker
45 Camera's eye
46 Yawn
48 "Nutcracker" costumes
51 Shuffleboard need (2 wds.)
55 Bohr's study
56 Robin __ of ballads
58 Plot inconsistency
59 Tiny stream
60 Soft drink brand
61 Prince William's school
62 Join forces
63 Cheyenne abode
64 Engrossed

Down
1 Coalition
2 Unthought-out
3 Mr. Moto remark (2 wds.)
4 Wrestled with
5 Latest 007
6 "Balcony scene" swain
7 Disney CEO Bob __
8 Wrigley Field player
9 Green parrot
10 Aim exactly (2 wds.)
11 Oklahoma town
12 Twig juncture
13 Used plastic
21 Gather opinions
22 Le Sage's "Gil __"
24 Pepys' book
25 Before, in combos
26 Take a powder
27 N.Z. native
28 Pile up
29 Rural sight
30 Welsh dog
31 Van Gogh's stand
32 Play for time
34 Ongoing hostilities
37 Weigh more
38 Let loose
40 Brings action
41 Deadly snakes
43 Not cheerfully
46 Pretense
47 Nest on a crag
48 Mitchell mansion
49 Mo. expense
50 Turnpike fee
51 Yokums' creator
52 Pinch
53 Filly's footfall
54 English county
56 Two-BR unit
57 Billy __ Williams



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		9			1	8	7	
3		2					8	
		5	1					9
				3		7	4	

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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					2			4
	7	6						
	2	5	9		1	4	6	
1								5
	6	9	3		5	2	7	
						5	8	
2			6					
		8		9			2	6

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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OK, so we all know who is going to go No. 1 overall ◗ And No. 2 ◗ But there is a ton of intrigue after those two picks ◗ We have the first round starting, ending with Stanford

Metro's NFL Mock Draft | Round 1

2 REDSKINS (5-11) QB Robert Griffin III (Baylor) — The Olympic-caliber hurdler is a freakish athlete, but he also throws a beautiful deep ball. No question he needs some polish, but he has star potential.

3 VIKINGS (3-13) OT Matt Kalil (USC) — They don't need a running back, so Kalil is the safe pick. Christian Ponder doesn't really inspire confidence, but he will even less lying on his back.

4 BROWNS (4-12) RB Trent Richardson (Alabama) — The Browns haven't had a playmaker since ... Eric Metcalf? Richardson fits the bill, even if they have a ton of other concerns.

5 BUCCANEERS (4-12) CB Morris Claiborne (LSU) — It's either Claiborne or WR Justin Blackmon. Greg Schiano is a defensive guy and they just signed WR Vincent Jackson.

6 RAMS (2-14) WR Justin Blackmon (Okla. St.) — Sam Bradford needs someone to throw to besides ex-Giant Steve Smith. Blackmon gets compared to Dez Bryant, but he's smaller.

7 JAGUARS (5-11) WR Michael Floyd (ND) — Generally we'd say new coach Mike Mularkey would want a new offensive toy and the best option is Michael Floyd. They might trade down.

8 DOLPHINS (6-10) QB Ryan Tannehill (Texas A&M) — This seems to be the concensus from everyone. Obviously Miami does need a QB. I'm not high on Tannehill, but I'm not the Dolphins.

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9 PANTHERS (6-10) DE Chandler Jones (Syracuse) — You're not going to win the South unless you can put relentless pressure on Drew Brees and Matt Ryan. Jones is a fast-riser.

10 BILLS (6-10) OT Riley Reiff (Iowa) — With the artist formerly known as Jason Peters (now Demetress Bell) leaving, they badly need a left tackle to replace him.

11 CHIEFS (7-9) LB Luke Kuechly (BC) — Kuechly has Scott Pioli written all over him. They don't really need an inside linebacker, but Romeo Crennel probably wants to go defense.

12 SEAHAWKS (7-9) DE/DT Fletcher Cox (Miss. St.) — The safe pick is Melvin Ingram, but when did Pete Carroll ever play it safe? Cox (if he's still here) is a beast. He's big, versatile and fast (ran track in high school).

13 CARDINALS (8-8) OLB/DE Whitney Mercilus (Illinois) — Hybrid rusher who is perfectly suited for the 3-4 scheme. Cards would be wise to take him for the name alone: SOUND ... IT ... OUT. Scary.

14 COWBOYS (8-8) CB Dre Kirkpatrick ('Bama) — Has just enough off-the-field issues to make him a perfect fit in Jerry's World. Cowboys are desperate for a lock-down corner with Terence Newman gone.

15 EAGLES (8-8) S Mark Barron ('Bama) — Philly hasn't been gun shy in recent years, so a trade wouldn't be a shock. If they stay at 15, they would be wise to finally replace Brian Dawkins.

16 NY JETS (8-8) DE/OLB Melvin Ingram (S. Carolina) — Jets haven't fared well with speed-rushers recently, but this is a no-brainer. His speed/athleticism will have Rex Ryan drooling.

1

COLTS (2-14) QB Andrew Luck (Stanford) — We're not breaking ground here picking Luck to go No. 1. In fact, Indianapolis general manager Ryan Grigson just came out and said his team was going to pick the former Pac-12 signal caller. The only other option was Robert Griffin III, but Luck is the right choice. He has already played in a pro-style offense and will be the closest thing to Peyton Manning.

17 BENGALS (9-7) CB Stephon Gilmore (S. Car.) — He's jumped to No. 1 among corners, according to experts. However, we got his flashier SEC peers off the board first. Perfect kid to groom.

18 CHARGERS (8-8) DT Dontari Poe (Memphis) — A combine monster that might have the most raw talent of anyone in this draft. Poe could thrive as a speed rusher in Chargers' 3-4 scheme.

19 BEARS (8-8) OG David DeCastro (Stanford) — Best interior lineman on the board. We just don't value guards in top 15. DeCastro would greatly improve the 28th-ranked (49 sacks) O-line in football.

20 TITANS (9-7) LT Jonathan Martin (Stanford) — Yes, we know the QB situation is murky, but the first step to help that is by drafting a franchise left tackle who played a pro-style offense.

21 BENGALS (9-7) DE Quinton Coples (N. Car.) — Questions about work ethic/inconsistency have dogged Coples since switching from DT to DE. Still, his 33-inch arms would boost the pass rush.

22 BROWNS (4-12) WR Stephen Hill (Ga. Tech) — A true downfield threat that would give the Browns some explosiveness on offense. As for getting the ball to him? That's a different story.

23 LIONS (10-6) C/OG Peter Konz (Wisc) — Konz could jump from center to guard whenever the Lions want. But his 6-foot-5 inch frame could hurt him as he sometimes gets outleveraged.

24 STEELERS (12-4) LB Dont'a Hightower ('Bama) — The Steelers are always defense first. But they're getting up there in age. Hightower is tremendously versatile.

25 BRONCOS (8-8) DE Shea McClellin (Boise St.) —McClellin's stock has jumped, and for good reason. He is a tad undersized for a DE, so look for him to see time at OLB as well.

26 TEXANS (10-6) OG Kevin Zietler (Wisc.) — The Texans lost two members of their O-line in Eric Winston and Mike Brisiel. The college connection to J.J. Watt is one reason Houston could bite.

27 PATRIOTS (13-3) DT Jerel Worthy (Mich. St) — The Pats are never shy about taking solid lineman from either side of the ball here. The 6-foot-3-inch, 310-pound Worthy is a rock on the defensive line.

28 PACKERS (15-1) DE/OLB Courtney Upshaw ('Bama) — Has great size and strength but lacks a bit in the speed department. Still, Upshaw is tremendous against the run.

29 RAVENS (12-4) OG Amini Silatolu (Midwestern St.)— It remains to be seen how Silatolu will adjust to playing against the big boys week-to-week, but he has the frame for some optimism.

30 49ERS (13-3) DE Vinny Curry (Marshall) — With their targeted O-linemen off the board, San Francisco improves their already loaded defense with Curry, a pure pass rusher.

31 PATRIOTS (13-3) S Harrison Smith (ND) — The Pats finally replace Rodney Harrison with Harrison Smith in the defensive backfield. Devin McCourty would be back to corner permanently.

32 GIANTS (9-7) TE Coby Fleener (Stanford) —GM Jerry Reese is big on the "best player available" mantra. If Fleener drops, he might be the best guy around and would fill a need.

Done deal

Samuel finally sent packing

Cornerback Asante Samuel was traded yesterday to Atlanta in exchange for a seventh-round draft pick.

The 31-year-old Samuel agreed to a restructured deal with the Falcons that will pay him $18.5 million over three years. He had been due $21.4 million for the next two years had he remained an Eagle.

With Samuel gone, Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie and Nnamdi Asomugha will start for the Birds.

"We wish Asante Samuel all the best ... We obviously feel good about our cornerback situation moving forward," coach Andy Reid said.

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GOT AN OPINION? SEND US YOUR THOUGHTS

EAGLES FEEL THE DRAFT

Birds likely to take defensive tackle in tonight's NFL draft ◗ Roseman talks about drafting the 'best player available' with pick No. 15 ◗ But is that best way to go? ◗ Metro takes look at five players team might target

Andy Reid's track record in the first round of drafts hasn't exactly been stellar.

When Reid hits, he usually hits big-time, like with Jeremy Maclin (2009) and Donovan McNabb (1999). But when he doesn't (see: Freddie Mitchell, Jerome McDougle, Brandon Graham), many are left scratching their heads.

This year, GM Howie Roseman insisted the Eagles would draft the best player available, not necessarily for need. He also said this draft is deep in defensive tackles and hinted that the team might take a defensive lineman at No. 15.

"We always look at the draft as a long-term decision for our franchise," Roseman said. "If that best player happens to be at a position where someone's already starting but we think this guy has a chance to be a really great player for the Philadelphia Eagles, we're still going to take him because we're trying to take the best player. We're not trying to take the best player at specific position."

REXARD LABMA/METRO

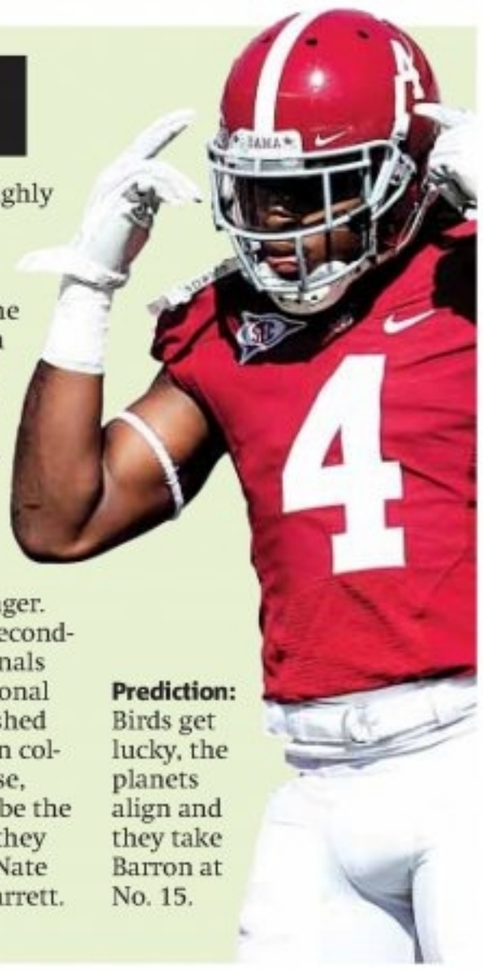
▶ Roseman

First of all

Looking at the Birds first round picks over the years:

- **1999, Donovan McNabb** No Super Bowl, but maybe the franchise's top QB.
- **2001, Freddie Mitchell** From fourth-and-26 to jail, it's been interesting.
- **2003, Jerome McDougle** Who? Poor guy got shot and never panned out.
- **2004, Shawn Andrews** Great pick, on potential. Too bad he was a head case.
- **2006, Brodrick Bunkley** Showed flashes, then flamed out. Now in New Orleans.
- **2010, Brandon Graham** Jury is still out ... but just 16 games in two seasons.

Mark Barron S, Alabama



The scoop: It seems highly unlikely that Barron would slip past the Cowboys at 14 ... *but if he did*, this makes the most sense for a team still struggling to fill the void left by Brian Dawkins. Barron is what some scouts are calling the "best of a poor safety class." But some in the know think Barron could be a game-changer. After all, he ran the secondary and called the signals for Alabama, the national champions, who finished as the No. 1 defense in college football. Of course, taking Barron would be the Birds admitting that they made mistakes with Nate Allen and Jaiquawn Jarrett.

Prediction: Birds get lucky, the planets align and they take Barron at No. 15.

Dontari Poe, DT, Memphis

The scoop: The Eagles have never shied away from combine studs, and Poe is the 2012 poster boy. The 346-pounder shot up draft boards after posting a 4.98 in the 40 at the combine. He also benched 44 reps at 225 pounds. Poe is another guy that screams raw talent, but is it enough to outweigh his on-field production? He had just 33 tackles and one sack.

Prediction: Team reaches for Poe before No. 15.

Fletcher Cox, DT, Miss. St.

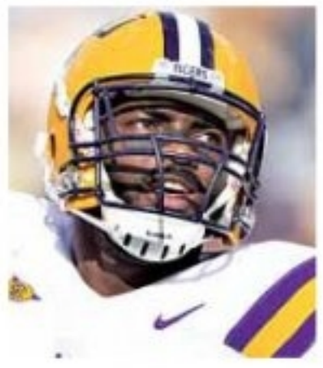
The scoop: Depending on which mock draft you read, Cox can go as high as No. 5 or as low as No. 12. Mel Kiper Jr. think the Eagles will move up, swapping with Jacksonville at No. 7, to get Cox. Makes sense because we know they are enamored. He's incredibly fast, can play inside and outside, and possesses a high football IQ. He's also been working on a Dwight Freeney spin move. Yes, Jim Washburn is drooling.

Prediction: Birds attempt to trade up, but the asking price is way too high.

Michael Brockers, DT, LSU

The scoop: Brockers is considered a work in progress. He's not the strongest D-tackle in this draft, but he's far from the weakest. He is a great run-stuffer, but can get washed away in the screen game. His biggest asset may be as an inside pass-rusher, built in the same mold as Cullen Jenkins. Bottom line, Brockers has enough raw talent to merit a high-reward gamble at 15.

Prediction: He's there at 15, but so is Barron.



Luke Kuechly, LB, Boston College

The scoop: Two months ago, this was the easiest pick to predict for the linebacker-starved Birds. But that all changed when they traded for DeMeco Ryans. And while middle backer is no longer the priority, Andy Reid loves competition at training camp — and the other two starting spots aren't exactly penciled in. Kuechly could step right in and start on the weakside. Of course, it's a stretch that he'll be there at 15.

Prediction: Off the board after Arizona snakes him.

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Luck be a Colt: No. 1 pick set to replace Peyton

Former Stanford standout knows Manning family
Shares same skill set, pedigree New era in Indy

The irony behind No. 1 pick Andrew Luck is that his journey to the NFL closely mirrors the pedigree of Peyton Manning, the quarterback he will replace in Indianapolis.

Andrew, the son of former NFL quarterback Oliver Luck, was seemingly bred to be an NFL signal caller.

Oliver Luck even backed up Archie Manning when the two were on the Houston Oilers in the early 1980s.

"I guess it's interesting," Andrew Luck said at last month's Maxwell Awards in Atlantic City. "I have had a chance to know the Manning family and they are great, unbelievable people."

Luck's skill set makes him as attractive a top pick since, well, Peyton Manning was taken No. 1 overall in 1998.

ON TV TONIGHT

2012 NFL draft — first round
8 p.m., ESPN/NFLN

One life to live

In the last 14 NFL drafts, 11 QBs have gone first, many with mixed results.

- **Tim Couch, 1999**
  Never lived up to the hype in Cleveland. Then, he failed a drug test and was banned in a comeback attempt.
- **David Carr, 2002**
  Bounced around after flaming out in Houston. Actually won a Super Bowl ring in 2011 as Eli's backup.
- **Carson Palmer, 2003**
  Helped Bengals earn first winning season in 15 years, but injuries have derailed a once-promising career.
- **Alex Smith, 2005**
  Led 49ers to NFC title game in 2011, then his coach openly shopped for new quarterback. Jury still out.
- **JaMarcus Russell, 2007**
  Raiders could have taken Calvin Johnson ... nope. He was benched/waived, while battling weight/drug issues.

Perhaps that should be no surprise since Luck had the opportunity to attend the famed Manning Passing Camp prior to high school.

"As an eighth grader I was a camper, and the past two summers I was a counselor. It was a great experience."

"The Mannings do such a great job of letting college quarterbacks get together and coach these kids and sort of congregate as a fraternity of quarterbacks, per se. It's a great experience. They're the nicest family."

KRISTIAN DYER
sports@metro.us

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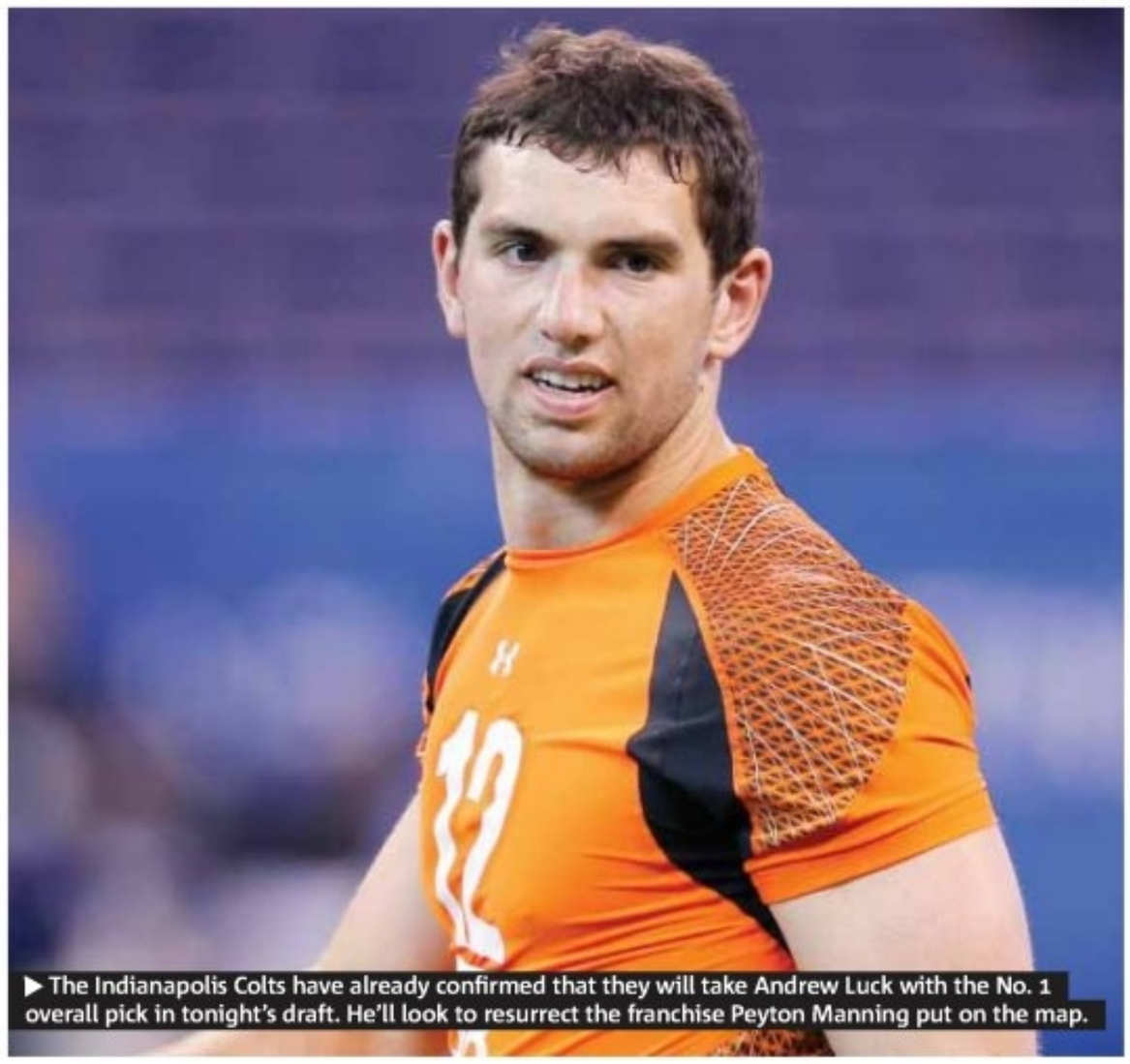

▶ The Indianapolis Colts have already confirmed that they will take Andrew Luck with the No. 1 overall pick in tonight's draft. He'll look to resurrect the franchise Peyton Manning put on the map.

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Phils 7, 'Backs 2

The Phils took 2-of-3 from Arizona to close a 10-game road trip. They return home tomorrow to host the Cubs.

- Cole Hamels (3-1, 2.73 ERA) gave up just two runs on four hits (seven strikeouts) yesterday for the win.
- Hamels also helped himself with a two-run single.

Unusual approach working for Pence

Hunter Pence's batting stance won't show up in the Spalding guide. The lanky right fielder scored the nickname the "Praying Mantis" when he was with the Astros courtesy of his unusual approach at the plate.

Pence laughs in the face of baseball convention, which advises players to adopt a classic but generic approach.

"I obviously don't buy that," Pence said. "We're all unique. No one has the same body parts and hands. I remember watching this film in high school.

"The instruction was that there was one way to hit. I remember [the voice-over] saying, 'You've seen how major leaguers hit, well don't pay attention to that.' That didn't make any sense to me at all."

Instead, Pence chokes up on the bat an inch and a half and squats low, while his body gyrates rapidly. Then there is his unconventional loose swing, which is the opposite of most player's strokes.

"It works for me," Pence said. "That's how I'm most comfortable and that's part of what hitting is about. The thing is that you have to be ready, be on time and see the ball at the plate. What I do at the plate works for me."

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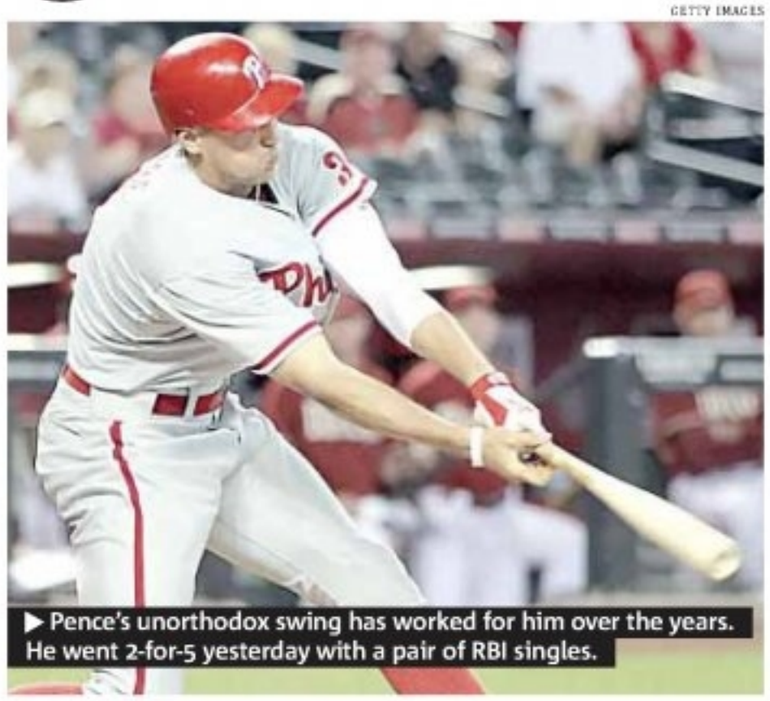

▶ Pence's unorthodox swing has worked for him over the years. He went 2-for-5 yesterday with a pair of RBI singles.

Pence is a lifetime .292 hitter with 117 home runs, a .342 OBP and .484 slugging percentage. Impressive numbers for Pence, who has been moved to cleanup with Ryan Howard out indefinitely.

"I'm enjoying the challenge," Pence said, who slugged a home run Tuesday night and leads the Phils with 11 RBIs. "I have a lot of responsibility in this order. I know I can do the job. I can hit but I have to hit my way. That's the only way I know how to do it."

And Pence has some advice for young ballplayers.

"Do it your way," Pence said. "Baseball is a fluid game. It's a rhythm game. You're often told to swing one way in one path. You're told to swing level. Sometimes that doesn't work. This game is about seeing the ball and hitting it."

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Annual slow starter

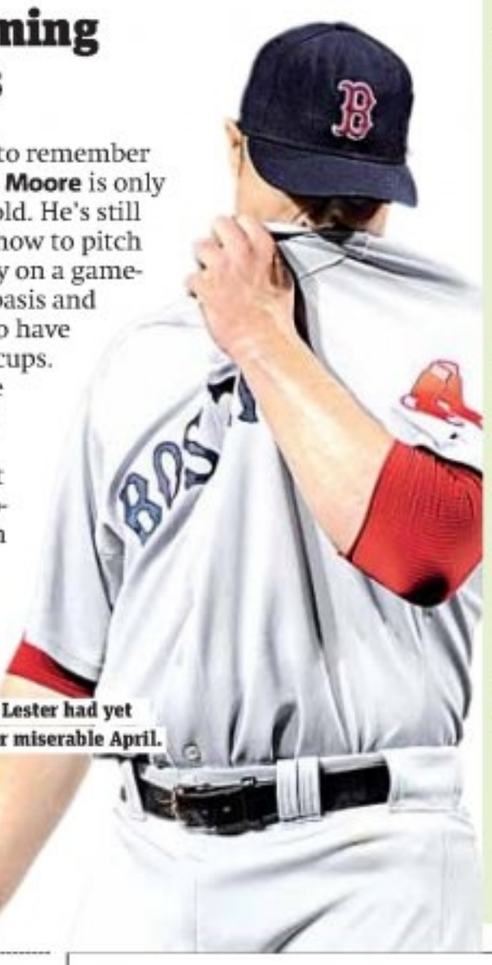
During **Jon Lester**'s seven-year career, he's posted a 4.28 ERA in April and a 3.92 mark in May. That's been followed with sub-3.00 ERAs in June and July. So it should surprise no one that Lester is off to yet another slow start in 2012. It also hasn't helped that he's already faced the elite offenses of the Tigers, Rangers and Jays. Buy up.

Power outage

A lot of power hitters — especially young ones — are streaky by nature. No one should be overly concerned by the painful starts that **Paul Goldschmidt**, **Ike Davis** and **Giancarlo Stanton** are off to. They all remain solid bets for at least 30 jacks this season.

Warming arms

We need to remember that **Matt Moore** is only 22 years old. He's still learning how to pitch effectively on a game-to-game basis and is going to have some hiccups. But in the long run, Moore's dominant stuff is going to win out.



Jon Lester had yet another miserable April.

NFL prospects

Keep a close eye on where these college standouts land in this week's draft:

1 **RB Trent Richardson** — Perhaps the best raw talent in the entire draft. If Richardson ends up in Cleveland, he's in for a massive workload.

2 **WR Michael Floyd** — There's little doubt that Floyd has the physical tools to excel at the NFL level right away. Unbelievable strength and power.

3 **RB Doug Martin** — Boise State product excels in the passing game, a must in today's NFL.

Top MLB pickups

Alex Rios

OF, White Sox
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Trevor Bauer

SP, Diamondbacks
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